



The President's Daily Brief

14 October 1972

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

On Page 1 [redacted] Soviet [redacted]
[redacted] North Viet-
nam [redacted]

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Communist forces have launched a series of attacks against South Vietnamese Ranger positions in the western highlands. The enemy is also apparently continuing to make preparations for the October countrywide "high point." (Page 2)

In Chile, the Allende government is attempting to cope with an extensive commercial and transportation strike, and food and fuel shortages are reported in some urban areas. (Page 3)

Morocco's foreign minister has informed US officials that King Hassan may insist on a reduction of the US military presence in his country. (Page 4)

The accommodation reached last month between the Lebanese Government and the fedayeen is still holding up, but a small extremist group may attempt to disrupt the delicate truce. (Page 5)

Full-scale hostilities between the two Yemens appear imminent, despite efforts of an Arab League mediation committee to resolve the differences between Sana and Aden. (Page 6)

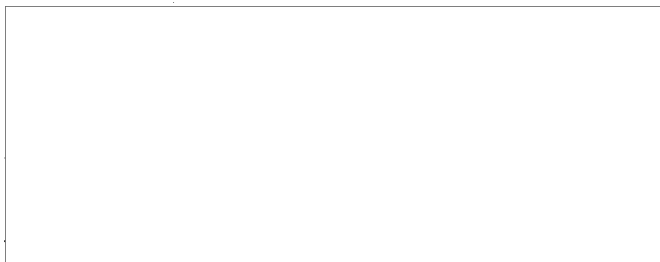
[redacted] Soviets [redacted]
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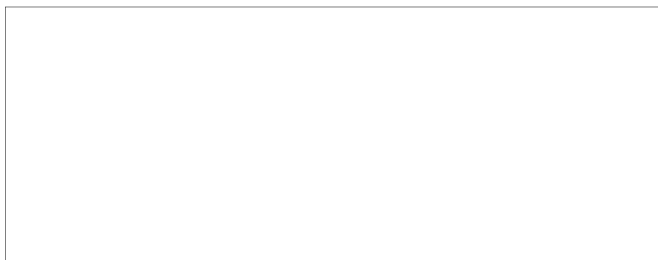
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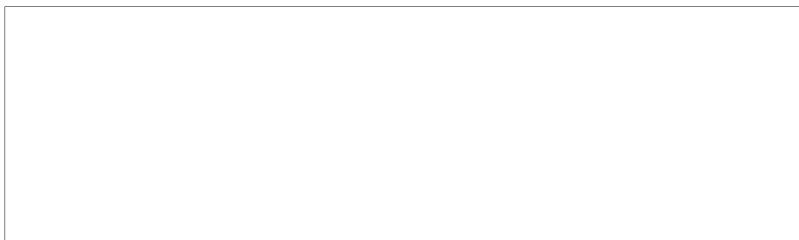
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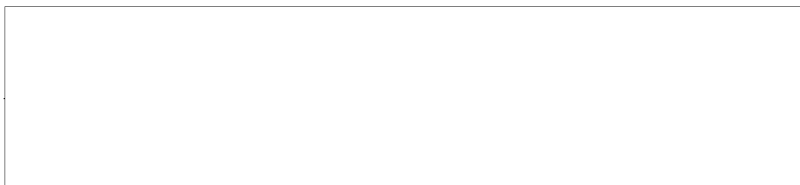
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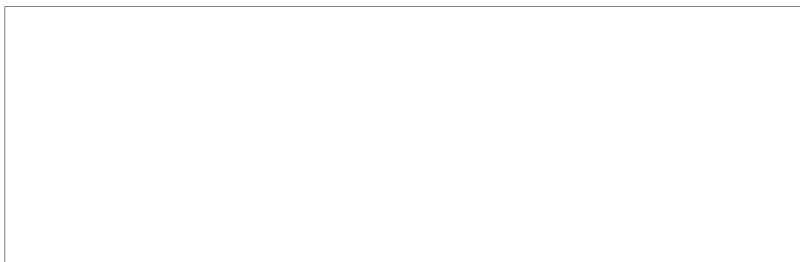
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SOUTH VIETNAM

Communist forces have launched a series of attacks against South Vietnamese Ranger positions in the western highlands. On Thursday the Communists overran the Ben Het border camp in northwestern Kontum Province following two days of intensive shelling. Two other border outposts are in immediate danger. The Dak Seang camp north of Ben Het, has been the target of enemy mortar bombardments during the past several days and a ground attack could come at any time. In Pleiku Province, enemy pressure against the Duc Co camp has also sharply increased.

These attacks may be the beginning of the October countrywide "high point" for which the enemy has been preparing. Elsewhere in the country these preparations continue.

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Communist rocket and sapper attacks against Da Nang are being planned, and enemy forces farther south of the city have been ordered to seize and hold as much territory as possible. The slow but deliberate movement of Communist units toward Saigon has prompted increased security measures around the capital in anticipation of enemy shellings and sapper raids.

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In the delta, several Communist units have relocated closer to key urban centers and military bases.

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CHILE

Major retail businesses began their sympathy strike with truck owners yesterday, despite the government's tough response to the transportation strike. Supplies of food, fuel, and other necessities were reported becoming rapidly depleted in some urban areas, and the commercial strike appears to be particularly effective in southern and central Chile. President Allende told the nation yesterday that in the face of a "fascist effort to paralyze it" nothing would keep him from maintaining public order and implementing his program. In another nationwide speech early today, he threatened to crack down even harder on the strikers. He warned of government confiscation of all trucks "kept idle" by their owners and asserted that shopowners who refuse to open their stores will be taken to court.

Allende's hand has been strengthened by the government's strict enforcement of the state of emergency restrictions that were declared after the truckers' strike. The government has not hesitated to use intimidation measures against truck owners and other strike leaders in an effort to break the strike.

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MOROCCO

Foreign Minister Benhima told Secretary Rogers on Wednesday that Morocco would like to "re-examine at an early opportunity" the question of US bases. Benhima added that it is not a question of closing all bases or removing all US technicians. He thought, however, that the three bases now in Morocco might be reduced to two.

King Hassan has not made much progress in broadening his domestic support, and he may well believe that reducing the US presence will bring him increased backing.

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LEBANON-FEDAYEEN

The Lebanese Army continues to enforce its restrictions against fedayeen activity, and most of the larger fedayeen organizations are observing the agreement reached late last month between the government and the commandos. [REDACTED]

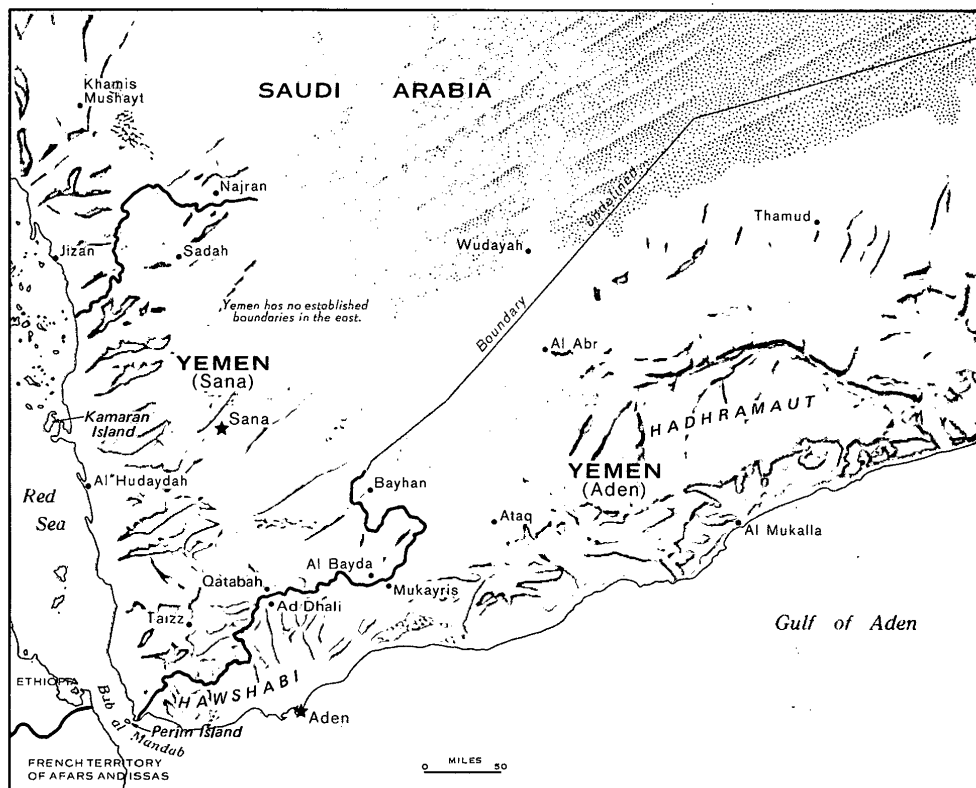
[REDACTED] the maverick "Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command"--a small group that split from George Habbash's main PFLP organization in 1968--may attempt to disrupt the delicate truce. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] this splinter group recently received a large amount of money and weapons from Libya.

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The PFLP-GC was opposed to fedayeen accommodation with the Lebanese Government and has generally been unresponsive to other fedayeen leaders. The Qadhafi regime may be actively encouraging this group to resume operations into Israel in spite of the Lebanese ban on such actions.



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NOTES

The Yemens: Full-scale hostilities between the two Yemens appear imminent, despite efforts of an Arab League mediation committee to resolve the differences between Sana and Aden.

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